

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner has asserted that claim 17 recites a computer program *per se*. Claim 17 has been amended herein to recite a computer readable recording medium having recorded thereon a computer program. It is submitted that claim 17 is directed to patent-eligible subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Thus, it is submitted that claim 17 is allowable.

Claims 1-16, and 18 were indicated as allowed.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the pending claims (1-18) are allowable over the prior art of record and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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